

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 AID-20 IO-14 DRC-01 /109 W

----- 008177

O R 230625Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3528

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL UDORN IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL SONGKHLA UNN

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE NIACT

DIA IMMEDIATE

SECDEF IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 8391

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, TH

SUBJECT: THAILAND INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION REPORT AS OF  
1300 MAY 23

REF: BANGKOK 8369

1. ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE NIGHTMARES BEDEVILING THE  
GOVERNMENT, THE CABINET RESIGNATIONS LEFT BANGKOK METROPOLIS  
WITHOUT ANYONE IN CHARGE. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DECREE 335  
ESTABLISHED THE BANGKOK GOVERNOR, AS WELL AS THE TWO DEPUTY  
GOVERNORS, AS POLITICAL APPOINTEES RESPONSIVE TO THE CABINET.  
SINCE THE NEXT PERSON IN LINE, CITY CLERK KHUNYING NANTAKA  
SUPRAPATANAN IS ON TOUR IN AUSTRALIA, THE "BANGKOK POST"  
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REPORTED MAY 23 THAT NO ONE IS EMPOWERED TO SIGN OFFICIAL PAPERS.

2. THE PRESS SAYS THE PRESENT CABINET CRISIS WAS ALL IN THE STARS. ACCORDING TO ASTROLOGICAL SOURCES THAT THE PRIME MINISTER ALLEGEDLY CONSULTED, SATURN (PROBLEMS) TEAMED UP WITH MARS (WORK). WHEN JUPITER (CHANGES) JOINED THE PLOT THE STAGE WAS SET FOR A CABINET CRISIS. (WE'RE LOOKING FOR A NEW EMBASSY ASTROLOGER.) ASTROLOGICAL ANALYSIS, HOWEVER, SUPPORTS THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY'S APPARENT INTENTION TO RECOMMEND SANYA TO SUCCEED HIMSELF, AND DIVINES A PERIOD OF RELATIVE LAW AND ORDER FOR THE NEW CABINET.

3. THE MILITARY CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A LOW PROFILE DURING THE PRESENT CABINET RESHUFFLE. GENERAL KRIANGSAK CHOMANAN TOLD COMUSMACHTAI MAY 22 THAT SUPREME COMMAND WAS CONDUCTING BUSINESS AS USUAL. KRIANGSAK GAVE NOHINT THAT HE ANTICIPATED ANY CHANGES IN OPERATING PROCEDURES OR DELAYS IN GETTING NORMAL APPROVALS. A RESPECTABLE THAI MILITARY TURN OUT FOR THE AARMA HOSTED GOLF TOURNAMENT MAY 22 FURTHER CONFIRMS THE AURA OF NORMALCY. ON A TECHNICALITY, GENERAL KRIT SIWARA'S POST AS "PEACEKEEPING DIRECTOR" AUTOMATICALLY EXPIRED MAY 22 IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CABINET RESIGNATIONS. THIS LOSS OF POSITION IS NO WAY A LOSS OF GUNS, HOWEVER. KRIT STILL HAS THE CANNONS BUT NO INTENTION OF FIRING THEM.

4. THE CABINET RESIGNATION HAS AFFECTED THE STATUS OF LEGISLATION BEFORE THE NLA. ALL CABINET BILLS WHICH HAVE NOT HAD A FIRST READING MUST BE WITHDRAWN. THOSE WHICH HAVE PASSED THE FIRST READING, INCLUDING THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION AND THE POLITICAL PARTIES BILL, REMAIN IN THE LEGISLATIVE MILLS. NEW CABINET MINISTERS MAY, HOWEVER, HAVE DIFFERENT ATTITUDES ON BILLS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE FIRST READING. A SOURCE WITHIN THE NLA SECRETARIAT SUGGESTED MAY 23 THAT THE GOVERNMENT SPONSORED BILL TO GIVE A TAX REBATE TO THE SUMMIT OIL COMPANY MAY NOT ULTIMATELY PASS. IT SURVIVED MAY 10 BY A MAJORITY OF ONLY TEN VOTES OF 125 CAST.

5. AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST WHO TALKED WITH NLA SPEAKER KHUKRIT PRAMOTE MAY 23 TOLD US THAT KHUKRIT PREDICTED THAT THE ASSEMBLY WOULD RECOMMEND SANYA TO SUCCEED HIMSELF. KHUKRIT SAID THAT, WITH NLA ENDORSEMENT AND THE KING'S IMPRIMATUR, SANYA WOULD BE UNABLE TO DECLINE A RETURN TO POWER.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRIME MINISTER, NOMINATION, CABINET, ELECTION CANDIDATES, POLITICAL SITUATION, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974BANGKO08391  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740128-0940  
**From:** BANGKOK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740524/aaaaavdw.tel  
**Line Count:** 107  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** BANGKOK 8369  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 JUL 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 JUL 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2003 by GarlanWA>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** THAILAND INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION REPORT AS OF 1300 MAY 23  
**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, TH, NLA, (SANYA THAMMASAK)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005